

Theme: God's people will continue to go through trying times, but as they trust in God's Sovereignty and their future eternal reward it will enable them to stand strong to the end.

## I. Intro - The End...

- A. Daniel 12 is the end of the final vision - and book
- B. It also points us to the time of the end of the age/ages
- C. It helps us tie up the whole book

## II. A Time of Great Distress for God's People

- A. A time of great distress - the great tribulation  
At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. **There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.** But at that time your people — everyone whose name is found written in the book — will be delivered.  
Daniel 12:1
  - 1. Looking forward to a time of great distress
  - 2. Many argue this is speaking about the end of the world and the antiChrist
  - 3. But I think that is only the secondary meaning
- B. Looking back in Daniel to discover this time
  - 1. Daniel 2 has 4 kingdoms, ending with ancient Rome
  - 2. Daniel 7 has the same 4 kingdoms
  - 3. Daniel 8 deals with the 2nd and 3rd kingdoms, and especially Antiochus Epiphanes, a type of antiChrist
  - 4. Daniel 9:20-27 speaks of the coming of Christ and the destruction of the Temple during the 4th kingdom - ancient Rome

- 5. Daniel 10:1-11:35 speak of the 2nd and 3rd kingdoms, again giving special emphasis to Antiochus as a type of antiChrist.
- 6. Daniel 11:36-12:13 point to a future time of trial and the 'abomination of desolation' - which will happen during the time of the 4th kingdom, ancient Rome

### C. Looking to the New Testament to discover this time

- 1. Jesus clearly references Daniel 12 and relates it to 70AD, during the time of the 4th kingdom
- 2. Mark 13 is about 70AD, the destruction of the Temple, and the end of the Old Covenant era (Matthew 24 and Luke 21 are the same teaching)  
"Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."...<sup>4</sup> "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?" Mark 13:2, 4
  - a. Jesus says the Temple will be utterly destroyed
  - b. The disciples ask when this will happen, and what signs will let them know it is about to happen
  - c. The words we will look at all answer the question of when that Temple would be destroyed (70AD)
- 3. A time of unequalled distress  
There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then.  
Daniel 12:1  
  
Those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now — and never to be equaled again. Mark 13:19
  - a. Unequalled distress - a proverbial saying for a time of disaster and distress

- b. This was unequalled because the Temple was going to be destroyed and the old covenant ended as judgment was brought on the generation that rejected Jesus.

And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. <sup>36</sup> **I tell you the truth, all this will come upon this generation.** Matthew 23:35–36

1. The final woe upon apostate Israel
2. The blood of every Old Testament martyr - from the first book Genesis (Abel) to the last book of the Hebrew Bible (2 Chronicles) - will be demanded of them.
3. All of this will come on THIS GENERATION

#### 4. God's people will be delivered

There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. **But at that time your people — everyone whose name is found written in the book — will be delivered.** Daniel 12:1

If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. **But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them.** Mark 13:20

- a. God had promised to deliver His people - His elect who are written in the book of life.
- b. God cut short the tribulation for the sake of His chosen people
- c. This is meant to comfort God's true people as they go through the tribulation - He will deliver them!

#### 5. The abomination of desolation

From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and **the abomination that causes desolation is set up**, there will be 1,290 days. Daniel 12:11

When you see '**the abomination that causes desolation**' standing where it does not belong — let the reader understand — then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Mark 13:14

- a. Abomination and desolation are used in Daniel 9:27, 11:31, and Daniel 12:11
- b. Jesus quotes Daniel 12:11 EXACTLY (in both Mark 13:14 and Matthew 24:15)
- c. Thus, the abomination that causes desolation was about 70AD because that is what Jesus is talking about in Mark 13/Matthew 24/Luke 21
- d. Luke tells us this is about the Roman army coming to Jerusalem

When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. <sup>21</sup>Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. Luke 21:20–21

1. Luke interprets the phrase for Gentile readers to understand - it is the Roman armies
2. When God's people see this they should flee away from Jerusalem
3. Church fathers tell us this is exactly what Christians did, fleeing to Pella and thus not being slaughtered along with the people of Jerusalem!

#### 6. Endure to the end to be saved

Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. Daniel 12:12

All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. Mark 13:13

- a. Daniel is told of the 3.5 years, and the faithful must endure to the end and they will be blessed
  - b. Jesus tells the disciples they must stand firm through the tribulation, not caving to the pressure
  - c. This is what the book of Hebrews was about!
7. Jesus clearly states that every one of the phrases from Daniel 12 was about the end of the old covenant era, the judgment upon those in Israel who rejected God's covenant and Messiah, and the utter desolation of Jerusalem and the Temple.

### III. Daniel 12 and the Future

#### A. The book of Daniel shows a repeating pattern

- 1. Daniel 3 and 6 - new boss same as the old boss!
- 2. Daniel 7 little horn of 4th kingdom, Daniel 8 little horn of the 3rd kingdom
- 3. Daniel 9 & 12 - the abomination of desolation for 70 AD; Daniel 11 abomination of desolation under Antiochus Epiphanes
- 4. The whole book teaches us to expect that these troubles are not a single event but rather a repeating pattern

#### B. The spirit of antiChrist is in the world so we should expect trouble and persecution

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. 1 John 2:18

- 1. The last hour: from Christ's first coming to His return
- 2. The spirit of antiChrist is active for this whole age

#### 3. This is why we hear that deception, error, and persecution will be common

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 1 Timothy 4:1

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 Timothy 3:1

But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. <sup>18</sup> They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." Jude 1:17–18

- a. This was common teaching in the NT era
- b. Tough times were not a one time experience in the past - they will characterize our life in this world
- c. This is why we must expect persecution in our Babylon
 

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup> while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 2 Timothy 3:12–13

#### 4. The examples and visions of Daniel are applicable to our age because we too are exiles living in a world hostile to God, His Gospel, and His kingdom.

#### C. The ultimate hope: resurrection from the dead!

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt... <sup>13</sup> As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance. Daniel 12:2, 13

- 1. Two promises of resurrection from the dead!

2. Death, not Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome, or even the antiChrist is the ultimate enemy!
3. This is meant to be a great encouragement to Daniel - and us!
4. Jesus expands this in His teaching  
Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out — those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. John 5:28–29
  - a. Same key ideas - graves, rise, some to blessing, others to punishment
  - b. Jesus will speak, and the dead will come forth from their graves!
  - c. Daniel has served powerful kings and seen the power of their words - but it was nothing like the power of Jesus' Word!
  - d. Daniel has heard God's powerful Word - but one day all will hear Jesus and will rise to stand before Him!

#### IV. Applying the Word

##### A. Two responses to God, two destinies

Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand. Daniel 12:10

1. The wise and the wicked - two groups, two destinies
2. The wise understand the truth of God, His Word, and His kingdom, and as they walk with Him are being purified and refined as they go through the fiery trials of this life.

3. The wise are those whose names are written in the book of life  
But at that time your people — everyone whose name is found written in the book — will be delivered. Daniel 12:1
  - a. The people of God are not determined by their own wisdom or righteousness but rather by embracing Christ in faith
  - b. The wise are delivered from even death, not because of their strength or wisdom but because Christ has defeated death and gives His righteousness and victory to them.
4. The wicked refuse to submit to God and His rule, proclaiming they would rather rule in hell than submit in heaven.  
Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand. Daniel 12:10
  - a. The wicked refuse to give up their wickedness, preferring sin to righteousness and autonomy to life.
  - b. The wicked refuse to hear, receive, and submit to God's Word, and thus fail to understand truth and reality
5. Have I embraced and submitted to God, His Word, and His kingdom? Embrace Him today!
6. Christian - trust in God's Sovereignty through this time of testing!
7. Christian - reach out to others with the Gospel!  
Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. Daniel 12:3

so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe <sup>16</sup> as you hold out the word of life — Philippians 2:15–16

- a. The wise lead many to righteousness
- b. The wise hold out the word of life to the dying men and women around them

## B. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

- 1. This Table is Eschatological
- 2. It reminds us of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- 3. It feeds and sustains us until that Day

## Standing Strong To the End

Daniel 12  
November 21, 2021  
Communion  
Jude 24-25

Teaching keywords: Persecuted Church; perseverance; eschatology; resurrection; hermeneutics

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy — <sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Jude 1:24–25

“At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people — everyone whose name is found written in the book — will be delivered. <sup>2</sup> Multitudes

who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. <sup>4</sup> But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge.”

<sup>5</sup> Then I, Daniel, looked, and there before me stood two others, one on this bank of the river and one on the opposite bank. <sup>6</sup> One of them said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, “How long will it be before these astonishing things are fulfilled?” <sup>7</sup> The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, “It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed.”

<sup>8</sup> I heard, but I did not understand. So I asked, “My lord, what will the outcome of all this be?” <sup>9</sup> He replied, “Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end. <sup>10</sup> Many will be purified, made spotless and refined, but the wicked will continue to be wicked. None of the wicked will understand, but those who are wise will understand.

<sup>11</sup> “From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. <sup>12</sup> Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days. <sup>13</sup> “As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.”

Daniel 12:1–13